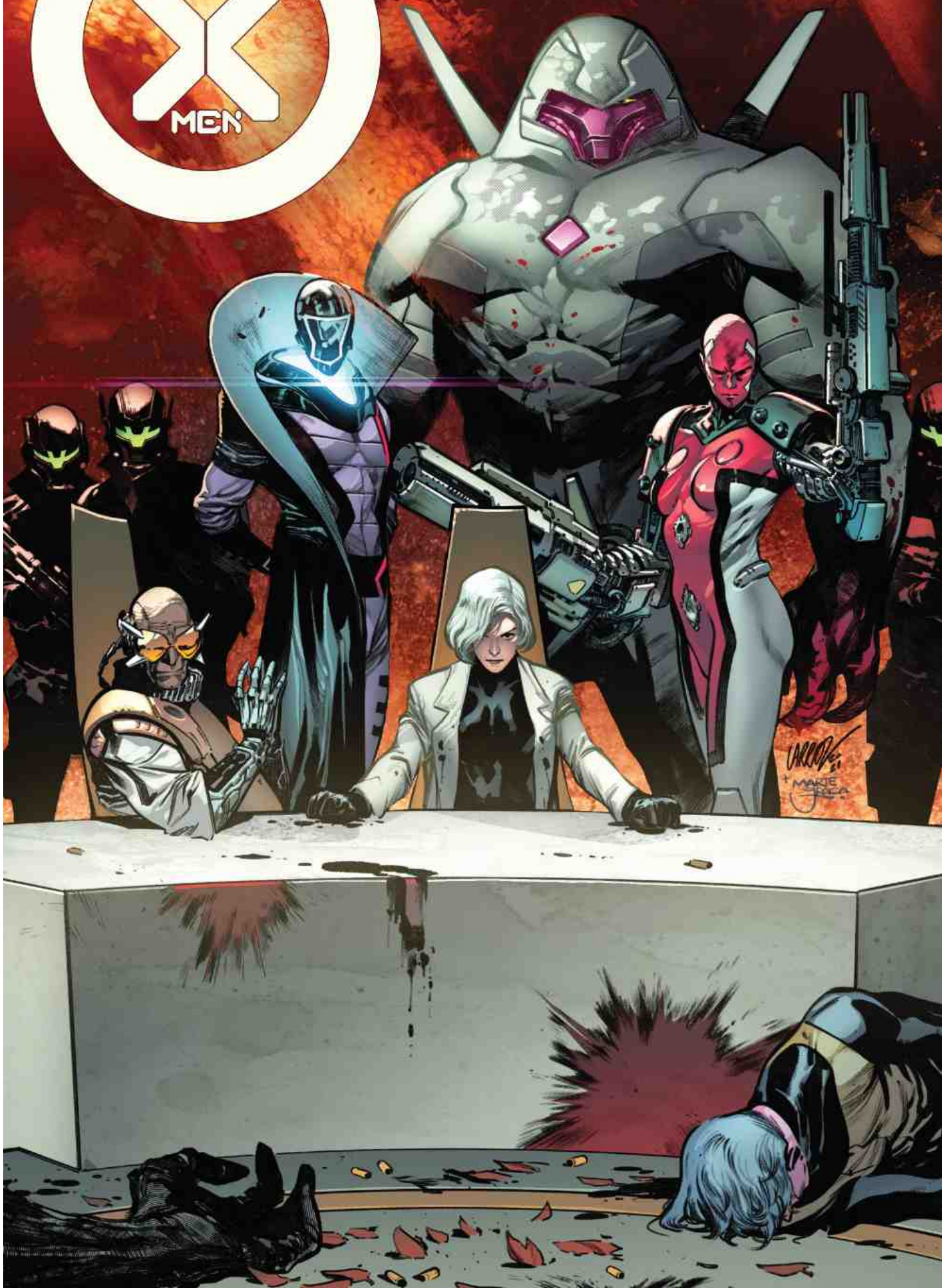


DUGGAN
VILLA
GRACIA

MARVEL
9



Krakoa.

We have
a sworn duty
to protect
Krakoa...

...and
it is with a
heavy heart that
today's matter is
presented...

Phobos.

...there can
be no gray area, no
indecisiveness...

...there can
only be one or
the other...

Arakko.

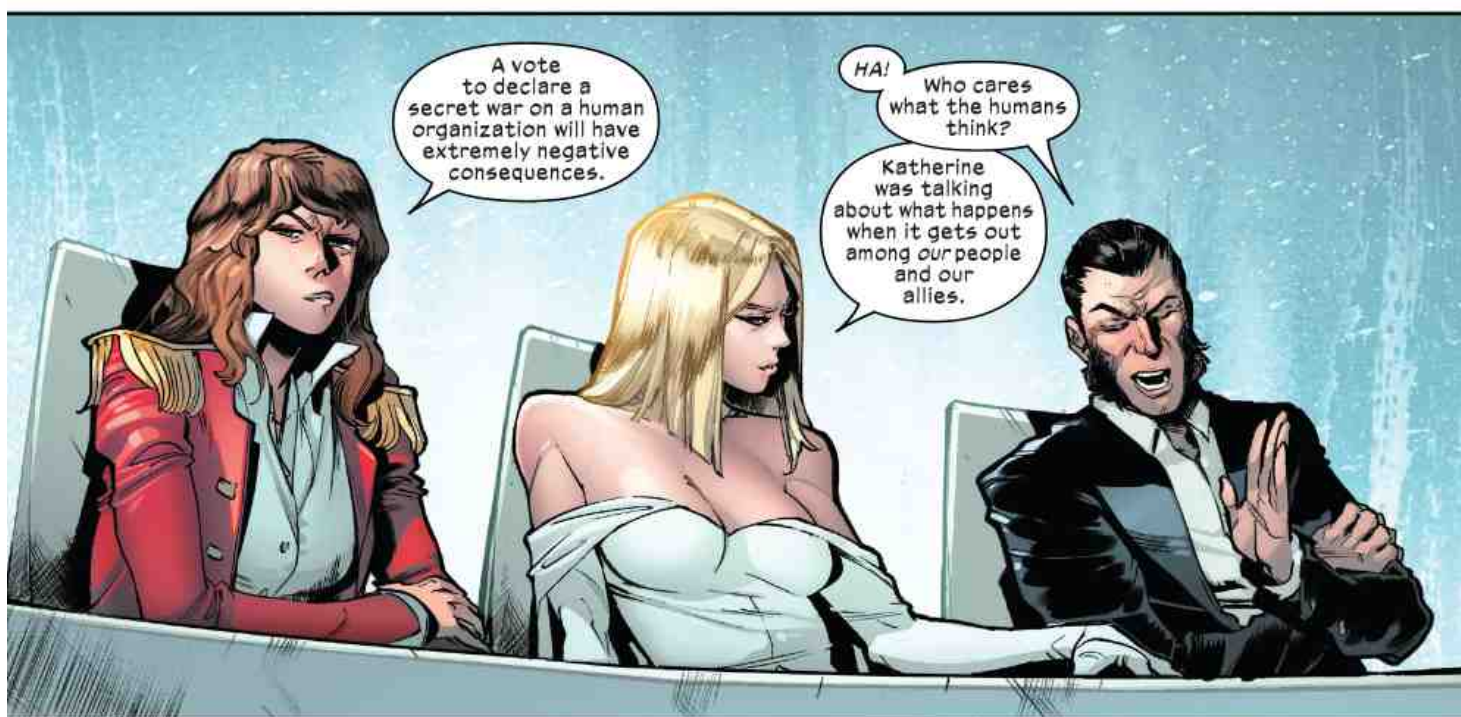
...it will
be war or
peace.



Orchis is dedicated to our destruction, and unlike our past foes, they are hitting us with both hard and soft power.

Orchis knows about our resurrection protocols from our numerous casualties against them, and it seems they are intent on using our achievement to drive a wedge between us and humanity.

Should Orchis be successful in the future, will this council be complicit through inaction?



A vote to declare a secret war on a human organization will have extremely negative consequences.

HA! Who cares what the humans think?

Katherine was talking about what happens when it gets out among our people and our allies.



Perhaps the less we know, the better?

Leave the matter as the purview of X-Force.



I will not raise my hand if it results in the death of another.



...
I eat my meat rare, as a reminder of the great cost of my survival.

Phobos.



Dr. Stasis, sociology and modeling was counting on the mutant resurrection causing panic by now. Do we have an update on--

All in good time, Dr. Devo.

We've had a delay, nothing more. That information will hit for maximum effect--and soon.

...and understand: That is exactly what's at stake: our survival.



I've had an epiphany about the mutants' greatest vulnerability. Recently, the post-human construct known as M.O.D.O.K. unveiled a synthetic drug that triggers a highly aggressive fight-or-flight response in the human brain.

I have some of the science from the bodies he's dropped, but I would like to free him from prison and enjoin him to our cause.

M.O.D.O.K.? Are we sure that's necessary?

We all agree this is a war, right? Who wouldn't want a machine designed only for killing?



I would like to meet this killing machine.

Well...



"...I take it my motion carries?"

A short time later, at Area 51's above-top-secret detention facility.



I told you my pets would come for me!

St-stay back!

AaAck!

The area is secured, Doctor.

Comms are down. Cameras too.

Should we surrender the prisoner?

Hellooo.

M.O.D.O.K., so nice to meet you, ah-- I'm sorry, is it Doctor M.O.D.O.K.? Mister M.O.D.O.K.? Or just M.O.D.O.K.?



I am M.O.D.O.K., but--who are you?

I'm Doctor Stasis.



This is my associate Nimrod.

No witnesses, Nimrod.



Nice to meet you.

SPLAT



We're early adopters in Orchis. Perhaps you've heard of us?

I was very impressed with that nasty little toy you tested on that cruise ship.



I didn't count on the X-Men arriving so fast!

I'm offering you a position.

Don't worry, it's not a long-term gig, or even a full-time one.

We have a goal, and when we're successful, not only will you get to kill many people, you'll also help remake the planet.

Life is too short to spend all of it fighting mutants, right?



I'm intrigued, Doctor... tell me more.



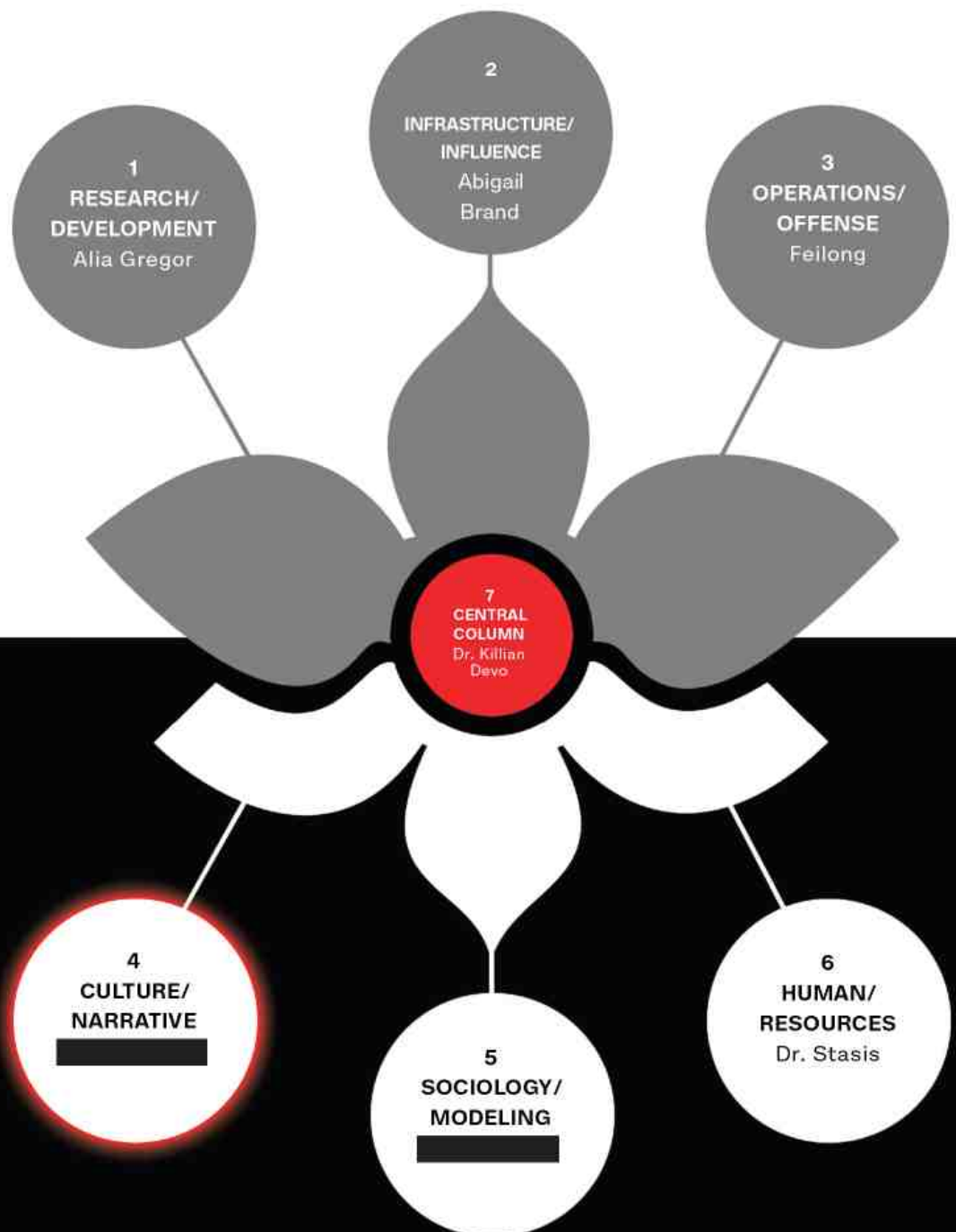
ORCHIS PROTOCOL

In light of multiple deep/parallel studies of current geopolitical trends, consensus holds that terrestrial domination by [REDACTED] is [REDACTED]

Avoidance of this eventuality demands [REDACTED] in every theater: **physical, economic** and **psychological**.

ORCHIS is a covert organization composed of multiple dynamic enterprises, collectively dedicated to the prevention of global mutant primacy. The ranks of Orchis come from across the globe. The finest former and current agents of S.H.I.E.L.D., A.I.M., CIA, FBI, Mossad and F.C.B. stand shoulder to shoulder, ready to confront the threats of tomorrow.

DIRECT STRATEGIES



OBLIQUE STRATEGIES



X-MEN

[X_09]

THROW YOUR HANDS IN THE AIR

Human reporter Ben Urich discovered the secret of mutant resurrection -- but before he could reveal it to the world, Synch -- using Jean Grey's powers -- erased his memories and stole his research. But that doesn't mean that the safety of Krakoa is secure.

The anti-mutant organization known as Orchis still lurks, looking for ways to undermine the mutant nation. Storm is still finding her way among the Arakkii in their sister planet. And internally among the Quiet Council, the recent resurrection of Destiny and her addition to their ranks is causing problems of its own.



Professor X



Rogue



Gambit



Sunfire



Storm



Isca



Tarn the
Uncaring



Destiny



Doctor
Stasis



Nimrod



M.O.D.O.K.

[ISSUE NINE]..... "THE RULE OF THREE"

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X-MEN CREATED BY.....STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

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The Great Ring.



The question to be determined is...will Arakko return to Amenth and resume making war?

There seems to be...guilt from some quarters over Planet Arakko.

This world was dead until mutantdom wielded our gifts...and "weapons." The Arakkii can be sure that there are forces out there that will hate us for this success.



War will find you...



...you have no need to go looking for it.

However, I have no patience for games today. So tell me, what is the Unbeatable One's vote?



I...abstain. Of course. But I'm interested to see who among us...



...misses the old way.



I vote
no. What say
you all?

Arakko once
had a mighty
voice...but it
was lost in
Otherworld.



The voting was
loud and fast,
but Storm didn't
hear a word of it.

Her attention
was on the
sacred land she
stood upon...and
it spoke to her.



What
say you,
Arakko?



Did you hear us,
Storm?

The vote is
deadlocked, with
one abstention,
so--

--as
Regent I cast
my second tie-
breaking vote--
for peace.



Like Redroot, the Forest, who did
not want to fight in the Otherworld
tournament but did so reluctantly
and only because Arakko was
in jeopardy.

And so
the Great Ring
recognizes Arakko
by adding Redroot's
plight to our
agenda.





If an Arakkii cannot escape captivity, they are no longer of Arakko.

Though in my personal experience, the Arakkii are well suited to prisons...

CRASH!



ARGH!

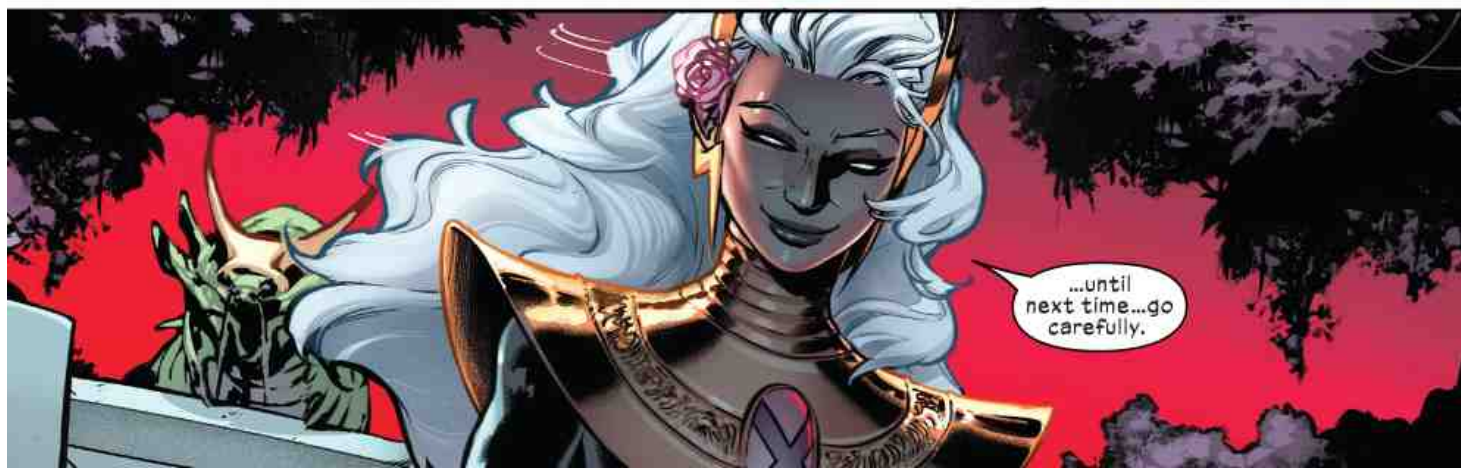


Do any of you require further translation from our host?



No? Then...

ughn...



...until next time...go carefully.

Oblitus. A patchwork moon forged from scavenged ships and space stations. A place of pirates and...worse.

Sorry about Knowhere @##%\$# the bed and tumbling into a black hole, Cosmo.

We brought you some treats from home. Who's your pal?

Rogue and Gambit, meet Albert. He helped Cosmo evacuate Knowhere to Oblitus.

Albert welcomes you. Rogue can live here. He has to go.

Shush.

Cosmo doesn't know where this Gameworld is, but Cosmo knows who might know.

The other mutant arrived just before you two, so she may already know.

"Other mutant"?





Not asking.

KRAK

UGHN!



HURK!

We were gonna do it the nice way. We were gonna buy drinks and sweet-talk and we were both gonna bat our eyelashes--but that's over.

Somebody knows where Gameworld is...



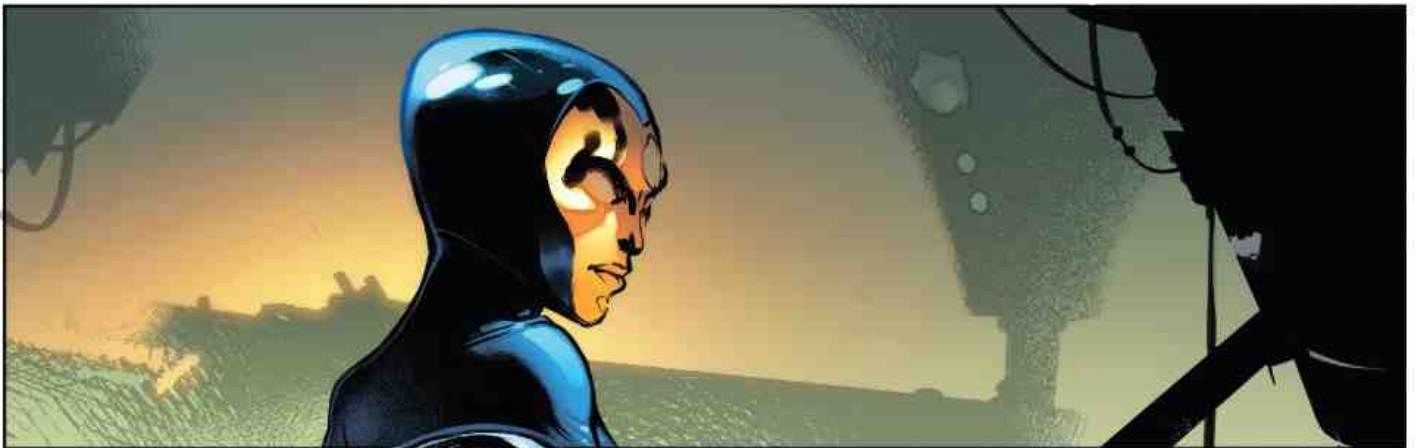
...and somebody is gonna talk.

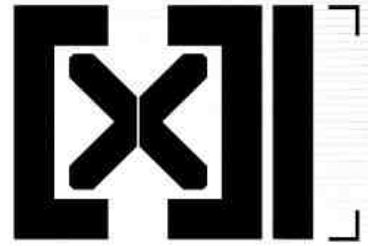












QUIET COUNCIL VOTE

Captain Commander Bishop had been lobbying behind the scenes for the council to provide a directive for mutantdom to confront the Orchis threat with extreme prejudice.

The hawks on the council presented the matter as an existential threat to mutantdom's existence, but the doves won the day, instead hoping to "kill 'em with kindness," as the Queens implored.

Destiny was all for destroying them, but made it clear that Quiet Council hands in the air would not provide a path forward. Sinister laughed, and when it was clear that the matter would not pass, Xavier also abstained.

<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTENTIONS</u>
Shaw Exodus Magneto	Red Queen White Queen Nightcrawler Colossus Storm	Sinister Mystique Destiny Xavier

When telepathically told of the outcome, Captain Commander Bishop simply said, "It will be interesting to see what will be the straw that breaks the camel's back...and now I know who I need to work on."



Later, back on Arakko.



This is beautiful, Sunfire...but be prepared.

If you're claiming this land as *yours alone*, our cousins may challenge you for it--as they challenged *Feilong*.

Indeed.



They are over there, if you wish to pay your respects.



I practically begged them not to fight, but after I killed the one in the helmet, they stopped coming.

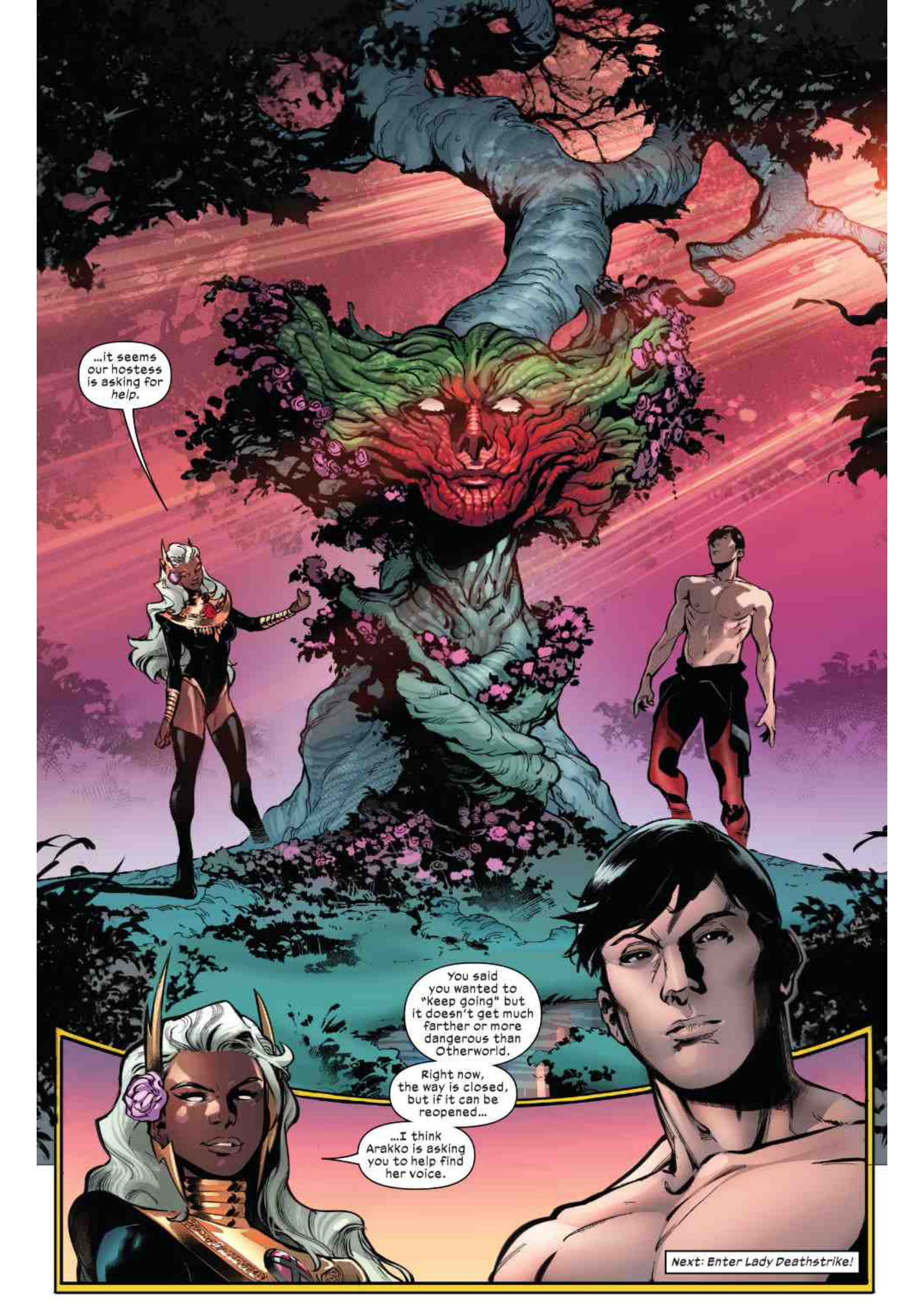
I guess... I am the guy in the helmet now.



It seems you are. Are you staying here?

For now, yes. But, eventually...





...it seems
our hostess
is asking for
help.

You said
you wanted to
"keep going" but
it doesn't get much
farther or more
dangerous than
Otherworld.

Right now,
the way is closed,
but if it can be
reopened...

...I think
Arakko is asking
you to help find
her voice.

Next: Enter Lady Deathstrike!

[illegible]

KR

	X LIVES OF WOLVERINE #4
>>>>>>>	X-MEN #9
	SABRETOOTH #2
	X DEATHS OF WOLVERINE #4
	X LIVES OF WOLVERINE #5
	DEVIL'S REIGN: X-MEN #3
	X DEATHS OF WOLVERINE #5
	IMMORTAL X-MEN #1
	MARAUDERS #1
	X-FORCE ANNUAL #1

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